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Re: Response to OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY rejected claim on Application No. 09/517,258 Art Unit 1725 reference line # 6 by Examiner Zidia Pittman.

Detailed Action, claim rejection 35-usc 112 1st rejection
Claims 1-15, 30-43, 63-67, 69

The subject matter is the pressure applicators. There use is to produce pressure to plates on each side of the weld seam before, during and after a weld is made and to continuously hold pressure to the plates until the weld to the plates and the weld has cooled enough that deformation in the work piece will be minimized.

With regards to claims 1, 9, 30, and 63. The limitation requiring a "said pressure applicators configured to extend behind said source of electric current" is indefinite. Does behind said source of electric current refer to the same plane as the source of electric current or a different plane? Clarification of this limitation is required. Yes it refers horizontal to the same plane on the top surface plane of metal plate where the pressure applicators are contacting the metal plate, but also the electrical current extends to a lower horizontal plane, vertically than the top surface of the plate being welded. It also extends to the desirable depth vertically of the weld penetration to the plate being welded together (most cases are full penetration of the plates depth or thickness), so yes the same plane as the pressure applicators but often extends beyond the same plane. Also on the same horizontal plane of the pressure applicators the positioned where in the direction of the electrical current producing a weld that travels the contacting surface of the first roller, is positioned one inch before the electric current and the polarity of rollers extends on side of and beyond the electrical current thirty six inches. This applied pressure pushes the plate to the supporting side walls and backing bar insuring that the two plates edges and the weld puddle forming the weld seam does not have any movement due to the heat involved in welding and metal expansion and contraction that causes the metal plates to move and buckle and deform the weld seam.

Claim rejection 35 usc 103

The scope of the prior art has two different methods of welding plate edges together 1) plates are fed to a stationary welding apparatus to be welded. 2) plates edges are held in position by finger clamps that hinge and are stationary over a stationary welding bed. My invention differs by using one method and is mobile with the progression of the weld being made. The scope of using a welding bed to weld plate edges together is the same but can be accomplished by different methods. A welding bed is the structure that supports metal plates to be welded together at there edges which is called a butt seam. The bed usually consist of two side walls that vertically extends from a foundation to the exact same plane and extends exactly horizontally, the typical length of material to be

welded together. A backing bar is used to support the weld puddle which forms a weld butt seam and the plate edges is usually placed between the sidewalls and directly underneath the plate edges and seam. The question is how to best ensure this fit of plate edges to the backing bar and side walls while a weld is to be performed and the plate edges and are held in place until the weld sufficiently solidifies so that the work piece can resist any plate edge to weld and weld deformation? This question apparently has not been obvious to any one with ordinary skill to over come. My invention over comes these short comings of other inventions and prior arts. It also lends itself to limited areas of space in the work place. Others are bound to one position with material that has to be fed to the welding apparatus.

Non obvious

It is not obvious that prior art uses (2) different methods which are stationary. My invention uses (1) method and is mobile that the welding apparatus travels along the weld joint to produce the weld.

Obvious

Its obvious that my invention is not stationary and requires less work area space.

Sincerely

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KJD/lbd